

**Colusa Subreach Planning Project Advisory Workgroup
Draft Meeting Summary
November 6, 2006 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Colusa Industrial Properties
Colusa, CA**

**Summary prepared by Carolyn Penny, Facilitator, Common Ground: Center for
Cooperative Solutions with assistance from Ellen Gentry, Sacramento River
Conservation Area Forum**

***Note: The next AW meeting will be held February 5, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at
Colusa Industrial Properties.***

Present:

AW: Annalena Bronson, Burt Bundy, Mike Fehling, John Garner, Greg Golet (alternate for Dawit Zeleke), Armand Gonzales, Kelly Moroney

Staff: Beverley Anderson-Abbs (SRCAF), Ellen Gentry (SRCAF), Facilitator Carolyn Penny (Common Ground), Project Manager Gregg Werner (TNC)

Guests: Rebecca Benassini (Economic and Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS)), Jeanne Cave, Katie Conrado (Colusa High School (CHS)), Walter Kieser (EPS), Michelle Pingel (Colusa Indian Community Council), Dollee Roberts (CHS), Jeff Sutton (Family Water Alliance), and Mitchell Yerxa (CHS)

Meeting Objectives

- To gain an update on subreach planning-related activities, including media coverage;
- To learn about and discuss the draft fiscal and economic effects analysis;
- To receive and discuss an update on the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan and the Public Access Plan; and
- To receive an update on the AW-identified studies concerning hydraulic analysis and regulatory limitations/pest species effects.

Agenda

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Approximate Start Time</u>	<u>Lead Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1.	10:00	Carolyn Penny, Facilitator	Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, September Meeting Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions. Approve agenda. Approve September summary.
2.	10:15	Gregg Werner, All AW Members	Brief Updates on Larger Context of Subreach Planning-Related Activities (for example: presentations, newspaper coverage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gain a sense of the larger context for recovery-related activities.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Approximate Start Time</u>	<u>Lead Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
3.	10:30	Tiefion Rice-Evans (EPS), All AW Members	Presentation and Discussion on Draft Fiscal and Economic Effects Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comments for preparation of the final report.
4.	11:45	Public	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive comment.
5.	12:15		Lunch and Break	
6.	12:45	Gregg Werner, Michael Fehling, All AW Members	Updates on Draft Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan and Public Access Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn of status of the plans and next steps.
7.	1:05	Gregg Werner, Greg Golet, All AW Members	Updates on AW-Identified Studies (Hydraulic Analysis and Regulatory Limitations/Pest Species Effects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain an update on and discuss the status of the studies and next steps.
8.	1:30	Public	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive comment.
9.	1:45	Gregg Werner, All AW Members	Next Meeting Dates, Next Agenda, and Next Steps Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape next agenda. Confirm winter meeting dates.
10.	2:00		Adjourn	

Review of September Meeting Summary

The September meeting summary was accepted as written.

Updates on Larger Context of Subreach Planning-Related Activities

For the benefit of a number of the guests for the AW meeting, Gregg Werner gave a brief history of the CSP as a venue to discuss issues relating to landowners and restoration. Gregg described the important research topics identified by the AW including: fiscal and economic impacts of habitat restoration on the local economy, hydraulic analysis of this stretch of the Sacramento River, regulatory limitations and the effects of pest species on adjoining lands, and public recreation, including the master plan for expanded recreation and access to public areas. He also noted that a number of concerns have been raised and discussed through the AW meetings, including the degree to which local landowners find it appropriate to participate with the AW as members.

In regard to the Sacramento River State Recreation Area master plan, two public meeting have been held to date and a third is scheduled for December 4, at Colusa Industrial Properties, 6:30PM, to discuss the draft master plan and recreation access in the Subreach. CSP continues to meet with property owners where habitat is proposed. Baseline analysis reports are complete and are available online or in the Colusa and Williams libraries. The AW-identified studies are all moving forward.

Fiscal and Economic Effects Analysis

The AW decided to expand participation in the discussion of the fiscal and economic effects analysis to include any guests who wanted to participate instead of asking for people to hold comments until the public comment agenda item.

Walter Kieser and Rebecca Benassini, EPS, gave a presentation and invited discussion regarding: the study purpose, overview of findings, economic impacts in detail (key assumptions, methodology, and findings), fiscal impacts in detail (key assumptions, methodology, and findings), and summary comments (see handout). They clarified the reason for a range of estimates for the fiscal impacts findings - high estimates did not include Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding; low estimates include PILT funding.

Burt asked whether the recent property ownership changes had skewed the baselines regarding economic and fiscal impacts. Rebecca and Walter responded that they looked at Glenn and Colusa County data and assumed a high level of productivity for the land to minimize any underestimation of economic and fiscal impacts.

John asked for clarification of tax revenue in regard to the pie chart on p. 14. Rebecca responded that tax revenue means all secured property taxes. John requested a more explicit explanation of the connection of the pie chart on p. 14 and the other tax issues.

John also suggested, for p. 17, including the percent of county land in public lands and recreation. John asked whether the tenants had reported production numbers above or below the county average. Rebecca indicated the tenant reports were slightly below the county average.

Armand expressed concern that the use of camping as a proxy for recreation results in too low a number. Walter responded that other estimating efforts lack a quantified basis. Jeff added that the status of fishing is the determining factor for the use of the park. Walter noted that the report consciously errs on the conservative side in regard to economic and fiscal impacts by assuming a high level of productivity and a low estimate for recreation revenue.

Burt asked Rebecca and Walter to explain which assumptions they used in regard to leakage, the amount spent outside of Colusa County. Rebecca stated the assumptions used were 30-40% of tenant expenditures in the county; 50% of visitor expenditures.

Burt expressed appreciation of the mention on p. 6 that TNC triggered an increase in property taxes. He inquired how such an increase was included in the analysis. Rebecca and Walter replied that the increase in property taxes triggered by the transfer, although noted, was not applied to the analysis except that the analysis used the current assessed value.

Jeff asked whether and where the direct, indirect, and induced costs referred to on p. 4 are broken down in the analysis. Rebecca noted those terms are described in the appendix. The direct annual agriculture production losses refer to direct sales losses. Indirect/induced losses include operator purchases to operate land, employees' purchases, etc. (also referred to as First Order Effect) and are included in the appendix of the Draft Report. Jeff followed up with an inquiry on whether there is a multiplier effect considered in the analysis, such as when a person employed locally goes

to buy groceries. Walter noted that multipliers are often 2 or 2.5, and those multipliers are not included in this analysis.

Jeff asked for the reasoning behind a decision to rely on IMPLAN in regard to direct and induced costs. Walter responded that IMPLAN generates the most reliable numbers for that part of the analysis. He also noted that the farmers of the restoration sites were not able to provide enough specific information to permit development of custom data for Colusa and Glenn Counties. Jeff noted that the figures on recreation are based on an assumption of funding and that the results would change if there are no funds and no increase in campsites.

Gregg noted that agricultural uses will continue until restoration begins. Mitchell asked for information on the timeline assumptions regarding the Ward property. Burt noted that, since the Master Plan relocates the campsites outside of the levee, those sites will be usable for more of the year than is the case currently. Mike noted that the campsite changes are tied to the boat ramp project.

Hard copies and email PDFs of the draft report have been sent to county agriculture and major government agencies, EDD, Farm Bureau, Family Water Alliance, landowners and others. No comments have been heard to date. After the comment period, a final, adjusted version of the report will be developed which will then be made available online and in the local libraries.

Public Comment

Members of the public were included in the discussion of the draft economic/fiscal impacts analysis summarized above. No separate public comment was offered.

Update on Recreation Area Master Plan and Public Access Plan

Preliminary draft comments are due back to EDAW. Draft plans will have final changes made and be out mid-month. They will be made available in libraries and online. Gregg expects the Ward property will transfer to State Parks by the end of 2006. December 4 is the next scheduled master plan public meeting at Colusa Industrial Properties, 6:30pm.

Kelly asked for information about the status of Roberts' Ditch and cautioned care in regard to the impact of additional parking lots. Burt reminded the AW that only 140 acres of the Ward Property is under consideration for restoration.

Update on Hydraulic Analysis and Regulatory Limitations/Pest Species Effects

The Hydraulic Analysis is taking longer than anticipated due to the need to calibrate the model and reflect accurately the water flows at the Moulton and Colusa weirs. Adjustments are being made so that existing conditions are reflected accurately. The analysis is expected next month for presentation to the hydraulic analysis subgroup. Thalweg comparisons are done. Large woody debris (LWD) is mapped. John clarified that the analysis will include the impact on flow from removal of woody debris.

The new Cruise 'n' Tarry setback levee and that site's restoration potential were briefly discussed. The state bought land at that site because previous work caused erosion. It is an emergency repair site.

The Pest Effects and Regulatory Limitations analysis report from EDAW is moving toward completion and will cover both regulations and options for agreements that protect farmers from

restrictions. An extensive table of 29 potential pest species has been completed. Work is being done to survey and incorporate local data including small mammal and insect pests, along with potential solutions for impacts. Next steps include a draft report by the end of November and, after input from the AW and external experts, a final due at the end of January. EDAW wants to incorporate the ongoing insect pest study, so the timeline for the draft and final reports may be extended.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Next Meeting and Interim Steps

The next meeting was set for February 5, 10:00AM-2:00PM, at Colusa Industrial Properties. Preliminary agenda topics for the next AW meeting are:

- updates regarding the State Recreation Area master plan and the public access plan
- discussion of the draft hydraulic analysis
- discussion of the pest species/regulatory effects draft analysis
- the AW newsletter
- baseline assessments for Boeger and Colusa North
- the final fiscal/economic impacts analysis

Interim steps before the February 5 AW meeting are:

- The recreation subgroup will meet
- The hydraulic analysis subgroup will meet. Gregg will let the entire AW know about this meeting once it is set.
- The SRCAF Board meeting is scheduled for December 7, 3:00PM, at Monday Afternoon Club in Willows; a CSP update and the Good Neighbor Policy are agenda items.
- The Pest/Regulatory Effects Technical Experts Committee will meet. Greg or EDAW will send to the AW the meeting logistics information.
- There will be a public meeting on December 4, at Colusa Industrial Properties, 6:30PM, to discuss the draft master plan and recreation access in the Subreach.